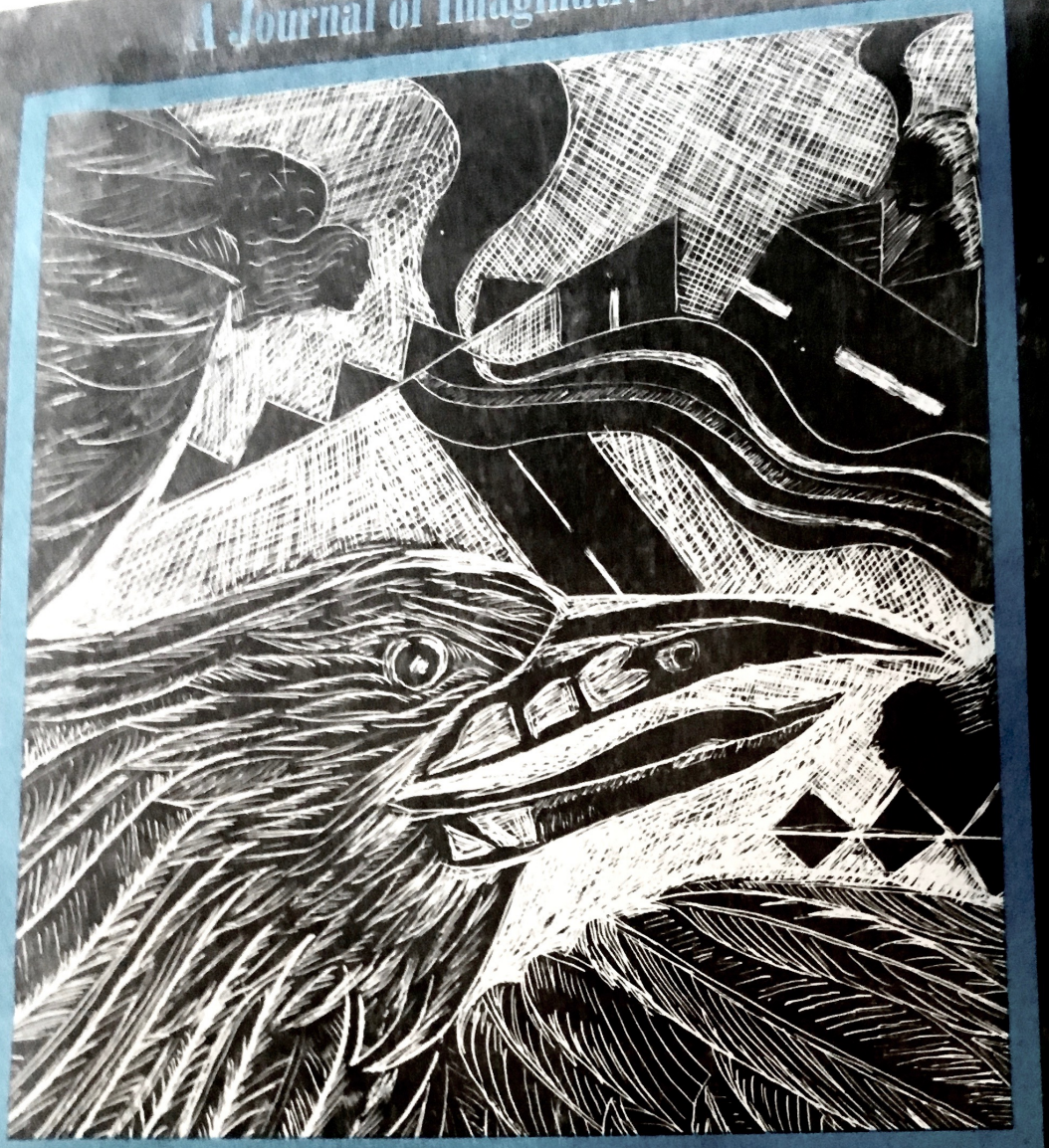
A Journal of Imaginative Trouble



TALKING RAVEN QUARTERLY

"Terror"

Talking Raven Quarterly, 1994, Pt. Townsend WA

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EXECUTION, TEXAS: 1897

My family has an heirloom memory, a handed down tale of our place within Old West mythology: my great-grandmother, a widowed schoolteacher, takes my maternal grandfather, then a small boy, to the public hanging of a murderer while living in Execution, Texas.

As the murderer's body dangled from the noose, the widow of the murdered man came forward to collect her due: removing a pin from her veiled hat, she repeatedly pricked the murderer's body with quick, decisive stabs. My grandfather, great-grandmother and the rest of Execution applauded.

D. Travers Scott
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